



Thorpe Church of England Primary School

Faith, Love and Excellence

Religious Education Policy

Ratified by Chairman's Actions Spring 2019
Date of next review - Summer 2021

1. Rationale

Thorpe School is established as a Church of England Primary School, drawing inspiration from the Christian faith. We have a strong Christian vision which is reflected in our values and the education and care we provide. We encourage the children to learn from religion as well as about religion by drawing upon the customs and practices of the Church of England. We study the topics suggested to us in the Guildford Diocese Guidelines.

2. Aims

- To enable children to flourish, know that they are unique and can contribute positively to both the school and wider communities; to be the best that they can be
- To develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions found in Britain through covering a range of topics.
- To create an environment that allows children to embrace difference, whatever background, belief or abilities they may have, whilst developing an understanding of British values; tolerance, understanding, mutual respect and democracy.
- To develop an understanding of what it means to be part of a religious tradition and community and develop a personal response.
- To be able to reflect on their own experiences and to explore their own personal responses to the fundamental questions of life within a religious context.
- To inspire children and give them opportunities to explore their own and others' beliefs and convictions.

3. The legal position

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on the Guildford Diocesan Guidelines and it meets with all the requirements set out in that document. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions. The 1988 Education Act states RE has equal standing in relation to the core subjects of the National Curriculum, in that it is compulsory for all registered pupils at all the key stages.

4. Planning

Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable the children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their experiences at religious festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter etc to develop their religious thinking. We organise visits to St Mary Church, Thorpe and to Guildford Cathedral and invite representatives of local religious groups to come into school and talk to the children.

Long Term Planning - The long-term plans are from the Guildford Diocesan Guidelines.

Medium and Short Term Planning - This maps the religious education topics studied throughout each term during each key stage. We teach religious education topics in conjunction with other subjects wherever appropriate.

5. Early Years Foundation Stage

We teach religious education to all children in the school, including those in the reception class. In reception classes, religious education is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. The Guildford Diocesan Guidelines are used.

6. Assessment

We assess children's work in religious education by making judgements as we observe them during lessons and through their work. We respond to children's work with the aim of provoking deeper thought and greater depth. At the end of each unit, the children are assessed. The assessments are reviewed and collated by the subject leader. Learning walks and book scrutiny also inform assessment and moderation.

7. SEN, Gifted and Talented, Vulnerable Groups

We recognise that all classes in our school have children of differing abilities, and so we provide a variety of learning opportunities to meet the needs of all learners.

8. Health and Safety and Safeguarding

RE lessons follow the school guidelines for health and safety and the safeguarding of all pupils.

9. Governors (only for Core subjects)

We have an identified RE governor who is kept informed of progress and development of the subject in the school.

10. Monitoring and review

The Governor, Headteacher and RE subject leaders are responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching in religious education. The SL is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

11. Classroom Worship

Each class has a worship station, a special area set aside as a place where the children can be still and quiet. Resources will be available for them to look at and think about. They will be able to reflect on things that have happened and have the opportunity to write a prayer which can either be kept private or shared with the class during worship times. RE/Worship boards are updated to reflect Christian festivals and events or the school values which have a half termly focus. Class worship will be held each week and will be linked to RE topics or assembly topics. Each day the children will be invited to say a prayer before lunch and at the end of the day.